

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES
Friday 26th March 2021, 5pm
Online (Zoom)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Judith Suissa, Lewis Stockwell, Patricia Hannam.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (held on 28 March 2020)

The minutes were recorded as accurate and approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Update from the Chair

Michael Hand welcomed everyone to the second online AGM for the Society during the Covid-19 pandemic. During the year Society business has been drastically disrupted with the cancellation of the 2020 conference and the postponement of the 2021 conference until 3 - 5 September 2021. The conference will be virtual but has been priced to allow as many people as possible to attend. The conference will include papers from the 2020 call along with papers from postgraduate students as a result of a new call which closes on 29th March. Michael thanked Amanda Fulford and Ruth Wareham and the Conference Committee for their time and effort in making major decisions on this important annual event.

The Society Branch Secretaries have worked hard during the year to maintain events online and Richard Davies and David Aldridge received particular thanks for setting up and maintaining the Virtual Branch events.

It has been a significant year for the Journal, which will now produce six issues a year, putting extra demand on the Editorial Team. The Editorial Team has grown to manage these changes and now comprises an Executive Editor, two Co-editors and eight Assistant Editors. Bob Davis, who has been Executive Editor of the Journal for the past ten years, is now stepping down and his position will be taken by David Bakhurst. Bob will remain as an Associate Editor during this period of unprecedented change. Michael welcomed David and thanked Bob sincerely for all the great work he has done in maintaining the standard and expanding the scope of the Journal, steering it through a period of unprecedented change in the academic publishing industry.

Michael also thanked SAS Event Management for its administrative support in the running the Society.

Michael paid tribute to Elli Glevey, Ieuan Lloyd and Steve Johnson, who have died during this year and to Paul Hirst, our Society President. Paul Hirst was a great influence on educational thoughts, policy and practice in the 60's and 70's and his works continue to be widely read and discussed. Patricia White and David Bridges are editing a series of essays in Paul's honour and John White has written an obituary, which can be read on the PESGB website.

5. Treasurer's Report

Naomi Hodgson presented the draft annual accounts. The accounts remain healthy due to the payments received from Wiley under our new contract and the decrease in spending during the pandemic. Budget lines have been set at similar levels to last year and there is likely to be some underspend again this year. Naomi asked for the Annual Accounts, produced by Slaters, to be approved by the members and for approval of Slaters to continue as our accountants. There were no questions nor opposition from members to the accounts nor Slaters. NH proposed continuing to use Slaters as our independent reviewer and this was agreed. There were no dissenters. Proposed by NH and seconded by Michael Hand and Richard Davies. Naomi thanked SAS for their work in preparing the figures for the accounts.

Naomi presented the Trustees Report, which will be sent to the Charities Commission. The report reflects the Society's structure, administration, income, conferences, JOPE and Branch activities throughout the year. The report refers to 'Diversity Committee' but the name should be 'Committee on Race and Ethnicity' so that will be changed before it is submitted to the Charities Commission. The report details how the Society has continued to provide for its members during the year. There were no questions about the Trustees Report.

6. Secretary's Report

David Lewin thanked the Branch Secretaries for their sustained commitment and providing online events for members during the year. He suggested that the AGM may become a virtual event going forward, rather than holding it at the annual conference. This will be discussed further.

Voting in the election for the Elected Member to replace John Tillson had been very close and Qasir Shah is the successful candidate. Qasir was congratulated and David offered thanks to John Tillson for his work on the Executive Committee. The current holders of Conference Organiser, Secretary and Treasurer were all re-elected unopposed. Paul Standish has been elected as the new President of the Society. Paul has been a member of PESGB for 42 years and a member of the Executive Committee for 30 years. He has had roles as Treasurer, Journal Editor and Chair and is currently a Co-editor of the Journal and Vice Chair of PESGB. He has played a key role in our negotiations with Wiley, which has seen our income quadruple over the last twenty years. Paul thanked Naomi Hodgson and Stefan Ramaekers for his nomination and said he was both honoured and humbled to take on this role and to follow in the steps of RS Peters and Paul Hirst. A statement from Paul has been prepared for the website.

7. JOPE

Bob Davis, the outgoing Executive Editor, thanked the Society for its kind remarks and commended David Bakhurst as the new Executive Editor of the Journal. David thanked Bob for his impressive work in growing the Journal in size and ambition into an impressive and engaging publication. When the Journal was first issued over a half a century ago there were six articles a year and now six issues a year. DB has been shadowing BD for a year, holding meetings every fortnight along with the Co-editors Emma Williams and Paul Standish. There have been some challenges, apart from the pandemic, as Wiley introduces new technology and plan a new layout. The new six issue format includes three regular issues and three special issues. Video abstracts have been introduced and suites of papers will be published now there is no page budget limit. DB expressed his gratitude to his Co-Editors and the Editorial Committee. Emma Williams and Paul Standish described the upcoming regular and special issues which are in the pipeline. Within the special issue format, one issue will be a policy issue. There are several special issues ready for publication and one proposal for Decolonising the Curriculum from a PESGB funded project but the Editorial Board is always keen to have more proposals. Proposals are submitted through Scholar One and are reviewed anonymously. Alison Brady asked if hard copies of the Journal could only be by special request? A survey had been carried out in 2015 when members were not in favour but this may be reconsidered and discussed further. MH offered huge thanks to the team and particularly to BD as he steps down as Executive Editor.

8. Annual Conference

Amanda Fulford, the conference chair, explained the difficulties of the past year in making decisions over the annual conference and finally planning a virtual event for September 2021. She thanked the Executive Committee for its support in the decision-making process. The conference will comprise papers carried over from the 2020 call along with postgraduate papers, which are currently being received until 29th March. The review of the postgraduate papers will be the same as usual with a panel of reviewers recruited from the PESGB membership. The pool of panel members is now smaller and AF asked members to get in touch with her if they are interested in joining for next year. The next face to face conference will be in Oxford from the 25th to 27th March 2022. AF thanked Ruth Wareham, the conference organiser, for negotiating with New College over our postponement and then cancellation of the conference this year. New College has been extremely understanding and keen to welcome us back next year. AF also thanked SAS for its help in sorting a platform for the virtual event and ongoing support. Ruth Wareham expressed excitement for the new format, which will bring a new and exciting experience to conference attendees. She also asked for members with any disability issues to get in touch to help to make the conference as inclusive as possible.

9. Society Committees

MH asked the meeting for any questions on the committee reports, which were presented on the website.

Race and Ethnicity

Large Grants

Development Committee: A new grant is available of up to £3K for ideas for new developments to be taken up by the Society. Details are on the website.

Newsletter: The Newsletter will now appear as News on the website. There is also a new blog feature, which members are invited to support and submit to.

Website: The new website is now up and running. There have been some comments about its accessibility for those with disabilities. Wiley has said that the site is fully compliant but we will be looking further into this.

IMPACT: There are three proposals in the pipeline but the membership is asked to suggest more titles.

BERA: A report is contained within the Development Committee report.

Small Grants

16. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at on 26th March at New College, Oxford.

20. Any other business

Heartfelt thanks to Bob Davis for his unflagging work on the Journal and some Chablis is on its way to show our gratitude!